



LEBANON ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MARCH 24, 2026 - 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes

- A. February 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes DRAFT

3. Other Business

- A. Patchwork: Connecting the Pieces June 28 event
B. Budget Planning
C. 4th of July Parade and cookout
D. Public Art Request:

Lebanon Opera House: Pride Event & Nexus Music and Arts Festival — Public Chalk

Materials: Non-permanent sidewalk chalk (can be removed with water) — all content will be monitored by staff and volunteers to ensure art remains appropriate for public space

Advertising margin: None (this is a free public event)

Pride: 06/12/2026

Nexus: August 7, 2026-August 9, 2026 (the duration of the festival)

- E. Public Art Map: Submit feedback to Lee
F. Sharepoint Site - Devin

4. Committee Reports

- A. Arts Organizations: NESAs, LOH, AVA, UVMC, Others
B. City Committees: City Council, DEI, Heritage

5. Open to the Public

6. Adjournment

- A. Next Meeting: Tuesday April 28 at 6:00 pm

The order of agenda items is subject to change.

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public who wish to attend remotely may do

Lebanon Arts & Culture Commission Agenda
March 24, 2026

so by going to LebanonNH.gov/Live where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupt virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs additional accommodation, please contact the ADA coordinator at City Hall by calling 603-448-4220 at least 72 hours in advance so that the City can make any necessary arrangements.

DRAFT

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES February 24, 2026
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:00PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (7/9) **Nick Gaffney** (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3)
 Lucas Mendelsohn (Vice Chair; LOH Arts Org. Rep)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission)
 Claire Geno (AVA Arts Org. Rep)
 Leonard Ridilla (Citizen Rep)
 Gail Dokucu (Alt)
 Honor Hingston (Alt)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2/9) **Stevens Blanchard** (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)
 Jennifer Chambers (Arts Org. Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: (1) **Paul Coats** (Director Recreation, Arts and Parks)

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

2
3 Chair Nick Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

4
5 **Gail Dokucu and Honor Hingston were given voting privileges for this meeting.**

6
7 Paul Coats gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

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9 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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11 **A. January 27, 2026**

12
13 *Lee Ridilla MOVED to approve the January 27, 2026, Minutes as presented in the February 24, 2026,*
14 *packet.*

15
16 *Seconded by Devin Wilkie.*

17
18 **The Motion was approved (6-0-1).*

19 *Honor Hingston abstained.*

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21 **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

22
23 **A. PATCHWORK: CONNECTING THE PIECES, JUNE 28 - ELLEN AHERN**

24
25 Ellern Smith Ahern spoke about the project that was started last November and hopes to be completed by
26 June. They are making a community quilt, with donated fabric, working at community quilting bees.
27 They have been held at AVA and will be holding a bee at the Listen Center. She believes it is important
28 to be holding the event outside of an art space to engage with a wide community. They will continue to
29 use various spaces. They celebrate quilting skills and traditions from the backgrounds of different
30 community members. It includes some of the performing arts, such as dance makers. The quilt will be
31 used during the dances and will be exchanged across the country for two years. It is undecided what will
32 happen to the quilt after that. They are working with the Norther Lights Guild members, a local quilting

1 program. They are hoping to have an event in June to celebrate the creation of this quilt. They will share
2 quilts and exchange performances with a similar association in California. The tunnel is thought to be a
3 good place to hold the celebration. It will have tables showing the craftsmanship of members from the
4 Northern Lights Guild members, and there will be a temporary fabric mural on display. If all goes well,
5 they may want to include music and food trucks.

6
7 This could also be a time to invite all the artists of the murals that are in the tunnel to meet the public and
8 celebrate the completion of the murals in the tunnel. Hoping to highlight the arts and culture in Lebanon.
9 This is also the nations 250 anniversary, it may be able to be part of this celebration with input from the
10 Historical and Heritage Societies.

11
12 They discussed how the quilters can work together with Arts and Culture and garner the expertise of the
13 members to help promote and develop the celebration. It will be held on June 28th. Members could help
14 with the coordination, marketing and promotion. The quilters will have flyers that can be distributed. It
15 is also a community celebration and a reason for people to gather.

16
17 The members discussed ways to involve additional community members who are working in the world of
18 dance. They discussed how many performances should be included in this event. The most important
19 aspect of an event is community involvement, in any number of ways, and a wide range of people and age
20 groups. Appealing to many groups is one essential goal. Basically, a couple of hours is the time span that
21 could include 3 to 4 performances, with a program every half hour, and still leave time to meet the artists
22 and get close to the quilts and the art. There is also the possibility for a dance party after the
23 performances as well. Dance films could be shown on the tunnel's walls. Food vendors are a topic for
24 another time. They will discuss things further when it is closer to the time, but this puts the Commission
25 on alert to keep it in mind for a summer event.

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27 **B. PLANNING BUDGET RELATED PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR**

28
29 The members are going to keep thinking about the items and ideas they want to consider throughout the
30 year. They considered using a shared document to keep track of the ideas. Many ideas are captured
31 during the minutes, but keeping track of the collection of ideas would ensure that no great idea is
32 overlooked. They may work on establishing a share point document in the City system. It may be a good
33 idea if one person was responsible for maintaining the list. Lucas will help collect ideas and others may
34 keep some notes as well and collectively they will capture the ideas. They just want to be sure they are
35 not conducting business outside of the meetings. Hopefully at the next meeting they can begin to capture
36 ideas. Devin will work on what it takes to set up the share point document.

37
38 One point of discussion is determining if they should have a poetry contest again this year because it is a
39 budget consideration. They will confirm if all the stamps they have already purchased are scheduled to be
40 installed or are already installed. They may want to reach out to the winners of the poetry contests to
41 inform them when the stamps are in place. They have the forms and applications that were previously
42 developed that can be used for the next contest. A contest this year would be for the 2027 construction
43 period. They own the stamps, and the stamps can be used a second time. Recently many sidewalks have
44 been asphalt, so they want to consider where and when concrete sidewalks will be done by DPW.

45
46 The members discussed the sculpture in the new round about. It looks like a fountain cannot be included,
47 but arts and recreation are part of supporting the art sculpture for the center of the area. They will look
48 for other ways to get financial support for the round about sculpture. It is supposed to start construction
49 in April.

50
51 **C. 250th CELEBRATION: NEW AD HOC COMMITTEE**

52
53 Members were asked if anyone wants to be involved in contributing to ideas and implementing some
54 grass roots ways of celebrating. The Heritage and Historical societies are involved, and right now it is an
55 ad hoc group. Hopefully the Legion will become a part of this group.

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D. LEB ARTWAY MAP: LEE

Lee spoke about the map that was created for the Lebanon Walk. There are a number of reasons why people come into Lebanon and Hanover. This map is the draft of a map that Lee created to encourage visitors and residents to explore Lebanon. These are all places that can be visited in any order, and a defined route is not necessary. Right now, there are 16 sites marked on the map. The sites were based on previous maps that have been around for many years and may need updating. The maps could be available in restaurants and many other public places. It is likely this is a map that is most useful when the weather is walkable. The members were very happy with the draft of the map. They discussed the places that are on the map and will do more work to see what places are included, and that all the places listed have some kind of artwork. They may want to determine what other places should be included and how and information should be included about the art. Perhaps areas that do not require a purchase to explore may need to be reconsidered, what areas can be accessed with no barriers, or are free. The places on the map may need to be asked if they want to be on the map. For example, Three Tomatoes has tear drops in the window and also has murals on the walls. Maybe the name of the art on the map is more important than the name of the business. It would be good to have a QR code where people can access to read more about each art object. They discussed whether architecture could also be on the map or just intentional installations. Perhaps a heritage and architectural walk is another map that should be developed. It was suggested that an annotation of where the poetry is on the sidewalks or some indication of art within the City No updates.
, and noting the tunnel art. Accessibility on the more information link would be helpful for people wanting to use the map. Artist names available would also be nice. For now, Lee will try to make it more art focused and to include artist names, but that may not be possible. They will look for ways to engage people and encourage them to use the URL code. Lee is asking members to email him with any additional suggestions and information to help develop the map. Everyone is enthusiastic about Lee’s work on the map, and they look forward to the next rendition.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ARTS ORGANIZATION UPDATES

• LOH

The Opera House events are underway with the winter spring shows. They are still announcing new shows that are coming including free, low-cost programming, and programming for seniors. They are planning the annual pride celebration, for its fifth year. Nexus returns in August. There are many opportunities for people to engage as volunteers. LOH is bringing presenters from across the world. This year’s schedule has more shows than they have ever had before.

• AVA GALLERY

The High School Art opening is happening this Friday. It will be one of the busiest openings they have all year. The art will be up for at least 3 weeks. They will also be serving pizza tastings during the opening. AVA is also offering creativity workshops. This week it is working with pastels and the fee is \$25, all included. It is a studio experience to get people started in the arts. The workshops will be held monthly on the last Friday of the month, a different medium each month.

• NE SCHOOL OF ARTS

No updates.

• UVMC

1 UVMC has an April event coming up April 18th, with fiddlers and bread. It will be held at the
2 Congregational Church. They are having an amazing faculty showcase in March. It is a benefit for their
3 tuition assistance program. It is thought to be March 7. They also just launched a tune-up program, an
4 opportunity for people who have engaged in music in the past and are not sure if or how they want to get
5 back into music. It will be a 30-minute free lesson to see if an individual wants to engage in music again,
6 and approach lifelong learning in the arts.

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8 • **OTHERS**

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10 No updates.

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12 **B. CITY COMMITTEES**

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14 • **CITY COUNCIL**

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16 No updates.

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18 • **DEI**

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20 Taste of Traditions will be in June. It is scheduled for the 13th. Arts and Culture may want to be
21 considering supporting this endeavor.

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23 • **HERITAGE**

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25 No updates.

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27 **5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

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29 No one from the public was present.

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31 **6. ADJOURNMENT**

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33 **A. Next Meeting: March 24, 2026, at 6:00 PM.**

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35 *Nick Gaffney Adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.*

36
37 Respectfully submitted,
38 Linda Billings
39 Recording Secretary